



Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones

The Federal Highway Administration recommends the following tips for navigating safely through freeway construction work zones:

1. **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!** Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed and people may be working on or near the road.
2. **SLOW DOWN!** Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
3. **DON'T TAILGATE! KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR AHEAD OF YOU.** The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision. So don't tailgate!
4. **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT.** Turn on your vehicle headlights to become more conspicuous to workers and other motorists.
5. **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!** The warning signs and traffic barricades are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone. Be warned: fines can be doubled in construction zones!
6. **OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS!** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
7. **STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving - especially in a work zone.
8. **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW.** Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by merging as soon as possible. Don't drive right up to the lane closure and then try barge in.
9. **SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME TO DRIVE SAFELY AND CHECK RADIO, TV AND WEB SITES FOR TRAFFIC INFORMATION.** Expect delays and leave early so you reach your destination on time. For traffic conditions, including information on work zone delays throughout Arizona, call **511** or visit the ADOT Intelligent Transportation Systems' Web site at www.az511.com.
10. **BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM.** Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.

